

# KRS-ONE

A black and white photograph of KRS-One, a man with a goatee, looking upwards and to the right. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is dark and industrial, featuring large circular mechanical components, possibly parts of a washing machine or dryer, with some light reflecting off their surfaces.

PARENTAL  
ADVISORY  
EXPLICIT CONTENT

# MAXIMUM STRENGTH

T W O   T H O U S A N D   E I G H T

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "Beware"

*[KRS-One:]*

Yeah, HUT HUT HUT HUT!  
I know we ain't gettin soft, HUT HUT HUT HUT!  
I know we ain't gettin soft, listen  
FIYAH!

*[Chorus: KRS-One]*

When you advertise in New York  
You best to beware, oh yes  
When you advertise in New York, you best to beware  
Cause the bling bling, and de sex t'ing  
Dem no care, oh no, you best to beware  
Oh no, yo you best to beware, oh no nooooo

*[KRS-One:]*

This is how they do it kid, I thought you knew it kid  
This is how they set us up listen I can prove it kid  
Many don't understand, you see it's all a plan  
To keep the black man a child like he's Peter Pan  
You'll never see a man, a real black man  
Until you see a man with control of his hands  
And to control your hands means you control your mind  
And to control your mind means you ain't commitin crimes  
Man you smarter than that, goin to prison is whack  
Even the people in prison know I'm spittin the facts  
I'm gettin open, open the class up  
Don't smoke crack it'll tear yo' ass up

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

Listen! We got our own problems here in the States  
So you know I'm not pointin the finger BUT WAIT  
This is somethin y'all got to see  
Even the UN knows violence begins with poverty  
When you ain't got no money, it's quicker to kill  
It's human nature that's way the jails are filled  
And the MILITARY? From the time you sign up  
To kill your neighbor man it's a SIN already  
And SIN meaning Selfish Inconsiderate Needs  
Gimme what I want! I don't care who bleeds  
These days people ready to steal and rob  
All in the name of I'm DOING MY JOB~!  
But what about doing your work, what's your purpose?  
No human being is worthless  
Think about this before you pull the trigger  
And you call your sister a bitch and your brother a - WHOA

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

Knowledge Reigns Supreme again, ignorance is weakenin  
Truth is what I'm speakin when I'm reachin and teachin my friends  
Life is more than just cars and lust  
Unity is a must, we need to build trust  
Open up your mind to this, raisin up your consciousness  
Whether you a pessimist, strategist or optimist  
My synopsis is knowledge ain't where college is  
Knowledge is for leaders and wisdom is for philosophers  
Now I'm hearin London gettin violence like Brooklyn was  
Brothers gettin shot just for lookin cause?  
I thought we deaded that, we need to be headed back  
Yo France, you need to be coverin your brother's back  
Bring the lovin back, cause the government don't love you  
They into murder, money, and stayin above you  
They want you all in prison  
So before you kill your sister or brother stop and listen

*[Chorus]*

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "Pick It Up"

*[Chorus: KRS-One]*

Get up! What we slowin down for?  
Pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up!  
We got a whole nation to restore  
Pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up!  
We gotta really love each other more  
Pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up!  
When you see my CD in the store  
Pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up!

*[KRS-One:]*

It's the teacher, class is open G  
Let's get open on the concept of votin, we  
Begin the discussion by viewin democracy  
People power, a people ruled philosophy  
Democracy is a system of government  
Where the whole population is the sum of it  
Where the government can't move without it's people  
Where before the law everybody's equal  
But take a look at the police and how they treat you  
Take a look at these corporations that cheat you  
Democrats and Republicans are all see-through  
Now we votin for the lesser of two evils  
Man, don't let 'em deceive you  
This is an autocracy, not a democracy  
But to call this a democracy without mock interest  
In the laws of society, that's called hypocrisy!

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

Democracy only happened one time  
In European history, now keep this in mind  
It was practiced in Athens overseas  
In 508 B.C. by Cleisthenes  
Citizens would get together on a hillside  
And decide how and if they was gonna ride  
But in 322 B.C. here's what happened  
Alexander of Macedon conquered Athens  
And that was the end of democracy  
Where the people had a say in their society  
Today, we gotta get more knowledge  
And learn about the function of the electoral college  
It doesn't matter who you vote for today  
The electoral college has the last say  
But that's another day, here's what I came to say  
RIIIISE UP~!

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

In corporate sponsored elections, who's winning?  
This the wrong direction from the beginning  
Every candidate got scandal, they all sinnin  
Tryin to convince you, tellin you what they been in  
But the real issues, they get avoided  
While our children still gettin exploited  
Heh, they call me Blastmaster Kris  
Edutainment, that's what my tactic is!  
Some criticize Kris, some laugh at Kris  
But you can't say Kris is not an activist  
Social justice, I got a PASSION for this  
Cause equal rights we still ASKIN for this?  
So when I do my tours it's not just rappin for Kris  
I'm givin you more than gun packin with this  
I'm openin doors, you should be askin 'bout this  
You listenin to them whores and them capitalists  
They game is tight, got you trapped into this  
It won't be long before the ring you like have to kiss  
That's why I'm a activist  
I help people not to get trapped in this  
The temptation? You gettin wrapped in this  
So get up, stop sittin like a PACIFIST  
Pick it up, pick it up, pick it up, PICK IT UP, PICK IT UP~!

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "All My Men"

*[KRS-One:]*

Woooooooooooo!

Where my men at? Real dudes

Where you at? Look

*[Chorus: KRS-One]*

Me is a mon, understand, not a passin trend

Me is a mon, understand, we provide and defend

Me a mon with a plan, my love it never ends

I'm callin - all my men, ALL MY MEN~!

*[KRS-One:]*

All my men that be holdin down they house and they spouse

Men, y'all know what I'm talkin about

Real men, providin for the kids, no doubt

Holla out, 'gwan shout, you the man of the house

Men! In my opinion if we gonna start winnin

F'real, we gotta respect women

Every mister, hug your sister, it's the

Time to support your woman and not diss her

It's the, teacher, overstand

I'm like a preacher, reachin your upper man

Man, many don't understand

How important it is to have a plan

*[Chorus x2]*

*[KRS-One:]*

All my men that be holdin they house down, true workin

All my men that be holdin they spouse down, for certain!

You spread love when you drivin around town, not jerkin

You a healer, you take away what's hurtin

Cause if a man can't do what a man plans to do, his purpose

Then a man makes plans with empty hands, he's worthless

He can't even understand the plan

What the second or the first is

Let me verse this or reverse this statistic

We gotta think futuristic

Strategic, logistical and even mystical

We need a new ritual

I'm tired of jumpin over buildings

And havin to stop to hold adult hands like children

C'mon, you can do it, c'mon

And when they get paid then they quickly run along

This ain't just another song

This is that fruit that reveals the right from the wrong

It won't be long here, before the storm's here

And real men are gonna have to be strong

*[Chorus x2]*

*[KRS-One:]*

Be a MON, stand on principle

Just be a MON, let God live in you

Just be a MON, walk in the spiritual

Metaphysical, political, lyrical

Just be a MON! Understand you not a passing trend

And this is the end

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "Straight Through"

*[Intro: sped up vocal sample]*

Tonight's a special night  
So remember with pride, these 20 happy years

*[KRS-One:]*

I can't leave my b-boys alone  
I can't leave my b-girls alone  
Let's turn this house right into a home  
C'mon y'all let's get into the zone  
Vibrate or mute or cellular phone  
In here they might already be on roam  
Minds are blown, I'm showin  
You ain't gotta go major you can do it alone  
As I look back on all the years, all the tears  
All my peers, in fear  
I hear, insecurity, the need for clout  
Low self-esteem and self doubt  
KRS lays out a whole different route  
And shows you what hip-hop is really all about  
Then we on the route, release self doubt  
And sing with the feds when the fear is out now  
Clear 'em out now, from the bottom to the tip-top  
Take the vow, I am hip-hop  
And recreate yourself, love don't hate yourself  
Do not deny or lie or fake yourself  
You can make yourself, reawake yourself  
You can mold remodel and reshape yourself  
You gotta take yourself more seriously  
Create yourself to what you really can be~!  
Yo the villain is free, look at me, I do what I do  
I am hip-hop and so are you  
Yo we almost through, but before we go  
I wanna invite y'all all, to every show  
Where the b-boys and girls are kept on their toes  
Like the Rocksteady Crew tribute with Fat Joe  
So now you know, if you got what it takes  
No doubt, show 'em what you really all about!

*[KRS-One:]*

Yo, now that that is out of the way  
Let me continue what I came to say  
Breakers, writers, emcees and DJ's  
Beatboxers too we've come a long way  
Come to the Temple of Hip-Hop today  
Our hip-hop week is every third week of May  
Hip-Hop appreciation we remember  
Hip-Hop history, that's in November  
Peace, love, unity, that's the agenda



When I'm on the mic that's just what I send ya  
We at the end sir, so what's the answer  
Hip-Hop can be more than MC's and dancers  
It's time to expand your  
Awareness, consciousness, enhance your  
Living, tell me, what are you playing for  
What are you staying for, what are you giving?  
I will demand your respect, with two MC's  
Two b-boys, two DJ's on set  
Two hour shows you bet!  
We get authentically hip-hop as hip-hop can get  
Independent, free from debt  
2005 you ain't seen nuttin yet  
Some like it dry, some like it wet  
Some like to give, some like to get  
Some like a good soundset  
You a b-boy and you ain't been out to the Bronx yet?  
No, yes, maybe, someday  
Whatever, we bring it to you Sunday to Sunday  
Workin for peace love unity and fun day  
Just a little somethin to balance off gunplay  
So now for the break if you got what it takes  
No doubt, show 'em what you all about!

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "Rockin' Til The Morning"

*[Intro: KRS-One]*

Yeah, yeah, yeah  
This what we live for!  
Let it rock, let it  
(Big up to all Brooklyn man, all Bronx man)  
(Uptown massive, follow)

*[Chorus: KRS-One]*

We can all be hear rockin 'til the mor-ning  
Boom, bap, and rap is what I bring  
We love, the clubs and we rock them  
Yes all over the world we shock them  
Cause everybody knows this flow  
It blows your mind

*[KRS-One:]*

We used to step inna de club with these murderers  
Hustlers, thugs, pimps and burglars  
You ain't gettin in the spot if they ain't heard of ya  
And if you sneak in the spot they might murder ya  
I used to be in them spots just servin the  
Raw rhymes flows and yes earnin the  
The respect from the streets in a circular  
Over the years, an MC I turned into

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

Ladies and gentlemen, the most controversial  
MC in hip-hop is about to raise your adrenaline  
Settle in and grab a seat, they start meddlin I'm a grab the heat  
I already grabbed the streets  
KRS, you don't find me on your radio station  
You find me chillin on them Indian reservations  
I spit like cajun spice  
You don't know KRS? Your momma must notta raised you right  
Man I blazed your type, done raced your type  
Man sit down~! You still on a training bike  
I'm the crazy type, you the lazy type  
Hey yo, look, I blaze these mics; cause

*[Chorus]*

*[Outro: ad libs from KRS and possibly the producer]*

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "The Kool Herc"

Yeah, Kool Herc!

Kool Herc, this goes out to you

KRS-One, word up, look

Temple of Hip-Hop, non-stop, we rockin you  
This is what them b-boys be poppin and lockin to  
Head moves, windmills, and yes uprokin to  
From Mr. Wiggles, Boogaloo Shrimp, and Shabba Doo  
Uh-oh, time for the truth to start boppin through  
Stompin through, with somethin new man, we shockin you  
This is what hip-hop'll do, perform the impossible  
Knowledge Reigns Supreme Over Nearly Everybody OOOH  
I'm philosophical, logical, very topical  
These rappers man startin to look comical  
But I'mma do what I'mma do and never follow  
I'ma do, Amadou, even if it leads to Diallo  
Victory over the streets that's our motto  
Some gotta work for it, others hit the lotto  
But big up Luna, Empire, Beedo and Gato  
Watch how I spit fire, it's been a long time yo  
But really it's a short time, cause I'm already in 2020  
Me and Herc yellin MAKE MONEY MONEY MONEY  
Hear me sonny while it's sunny release your rhyme  
Get your money, ain't nuttin funny, but get peace of mind

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "Busy Bee Shout Out"

*[Busy Bee]*

I told all y'all before  
We comin back for more  
Givin you more and more  
Than what you bargained for  
It's my main man KRS-One  
The Grandmaster Caz  
My man Kool Herc  
And this is how it's gettin down  
You know me  
The chief rocker Busy Bee  
This flavor's goin on  
And on, and ON!

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "New York"

*[Intro:]*

And you say New York City!  
Duane 'Darock', KRS

*[Chorus: female singers]*

It's New Yorrrrrrrrk, and we livin  
The whole world, it knows, your name  
It's New Yorrrrrrrrk, and we livin  
The whole world, it knows, your name

*[over Chorus:]*

Lenox Avenue, Park Ave  
Long Island I see you baby  
Jamaican Ave, Queens  
KRS, let's go!

*[KRS-One:]*

New, York, City, get it right, get it tight, get it hype  
New York City's in the house tonight  
All day, off and on, Broadway  
The world's Big Apple is what they all say  
Wait, way back in the day  
Dudes from the South migrated this way North  
Lookin for the higher pay of course  
Led by the forces they became big bosses  
Like Rick Ross is, the city that never sleeps  
Yup, New York is  
If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere  
What's that?

*[Chorus]*

*[over Chorus:]*

Flatbush! Brooklyn (we live this)  
BX Bronx, c'mon  
Gun Hill Road, Grand Concourse

*[KRS-One:]*

New, York, City, still part of my heart, still part of my start  
As you can see it's still, part of my art  
Still part of my lesson plan, listen man~!  
N.Y., every year we fresh again  
I be doin South Bronx everywhere I go  
Everywhere I go, every nation know  
I'm a New York dude that's not New York rude  
All over the world I eat New York food  
Ha, I'm at home anywhere, any place  
Right now somebody from New York in this place

Yeah, no matter where I be  
I'll always be N-Y-C

*[Chorus]*

*[over Chorus:]*

Coney Island! Brighton Beach  
Wooo, Red Hook!  
I see you Canal Street, Delancey Street  
Hester Street, c'mon, New York let's go

*[KRS-One:]*

New, York, City, metropolitan life, cosmopolitan life  
It put the strength inside of my life  
But New York City got it's challenges also  
Racism, sexism, crime, you all know!  
Them guns that keep goin off bustin  
And another one bites the dust when  
Conflicts arise and dudes start bustin  
And cussin, I gotta speak to this  
New York is not unique in this  
But if we keep sewing this we gonna keep reapin this  
I'm teachin this, we gotta overcome our weaknesses  
Remember man!

*[Chorus]*

*[over Chorus:]*

Big up to the firefighters, rest in peace  
World Trades y'know  
Brooklyn! The Bronx, Queens  
Manhattan! Staten Island! New York love it baby

*[Chorus]*

*[over Chorus:]*

South Bronx  
South Bronx, big 'em up!  
Rest in peace Jam Master Jay, Big Pun  
Big L, Randy Parker  
You with us for life rest in peace my brother

# KRS-One Lyrics

## "Hip Hop"

*[KRS-One:]*

We need unity in the community  
KRS, hip-hop is one  
Conscious, gangsters, hustlers  
Man

*[Chorus:]*

Hiiiiip-Hop; I'm livin for that  
Hiiiiip-Hop; I'm livin for that  
Hiiiiip-Hop; I'm doin it for  
Hiiiiip-Hop

*[KRS-One:]*

Yo - we went from nuttin to somethin, bein real and not frontin  
No one was givin us nuttin so we resorted to gunnin  
Growin up and we comin, up the ladder not bummin  
Dodgin warrants and summons, from the cops we were runnin  
Goin to school not for nuttin they teachin lies and assumptions  
And they tell us keep comin, comin to school now for what? When  
Comin back to a system that's whack and really not runnin  
Oh I'm sorry it's runnin, it's not PROPERLY runnin  
It's a conspiracy hear me man it's got to be somethin  
I can get guns faster than I can get an english muffin  
And the black church ain't sayin nuttin  
We on our own cousin, I'm stickin to this

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

I'm livin for this hip-hop, I'm spittin for this hip-hop  
I'm givin to this hip-hop, my life is hip-hop  
Culture, and y'all know that  
Hip-Hop in the media, y'all know it's whack  
But just like them dopefiends who keep comin back  
Like the mayor of D.C., buyin Joey's crack  
No disrespect to either one of them but look at that  
Study the metaphors in this rap  
We bigger than crack, but we keep buyin it  
We bigger than rap, but we keep denyin it  
Justice, equality, keep cryin it  
But the only way to get it is to start applyin it  
Fat Joe that's my bro shows 'nuff respect  
Talib, that's my bro, shows 'nuff respect  
50 Cent that's my bro he shows 'nuff respect  
Common! That's my bro he shows 'nuff respect  
Snoop Dogg is my bro showed 'nuff respect  
Dead Prez that's my peeps yo 'nuff respect  
Cassidy's an MC who shows 'nuff respect

Hip-Hop is one, don't forget  
I'm stickin with this

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

I'm livin for that hip-hop culture, shape it like a sculpture  
Touch it why don'tcha, touch it why don'tcha  
Hip-Hop is yours and mine and that's fine  
But hip-hop's culture ain't about just crime  
You caught up in the image and, don't know they rhymes  
You caught up in they bodies and don't know they minds  
So I'm, here to bring the truth in the place  
Like don't think Common won't punch you in your face~!  
And don't think Talib won't hold the heat  
To stop the violence you gotta know your street  
You gotta know who Tanga Reed is  
Fat Joe's a leader, Busta Rhymes a preacher  
KRS-One's a teacher  
But through Cassidy my lessons are quicker to reach ya  
We one community  
I'm talkin about unity, in other words you and me  
I'm with this

*[Chorus x2]*



# KRS-One Lyrics

## "The Heat"

*[Intro:]*

FRESH~! For 2008, you suckers  
Yeah! James Desmond, yeah, ha ha ha ha  
KRS, keep bringin that

*[Chorus: KRS-One]*

Heat, the heat, the heat, the heat  
The heat, the heat, the heeeeeeat!

*[KRS-One:]*

I'm called when all falls and yes y'all stalls  
And cornballs wanna get smoked like Pall Malls  
I'm on all fours, all year on tours  
Place your bets I'm takin all yours  
All wars, toppin all scores  
Teachin street laws, the teacher because I bring the

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

I'm called when no one is talkin  
The truth about what's goin on and on and  
When you wanna put that New York talk in  
You cause the KRS-One to start barkin  
Toward the mic, grab the mic, start barkin  
Outside the club spot cars start parkin for the

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

Yeah, get it bumpin now, get it bumpin now  
Turn up that da-dumb-dumb-dumb-BLAOW  
I know you know how, we doin it right now  
People in the club like WOW~! For that

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

OHH! It's gettin hot, don't stop  
We just about to reach the top of hip-hop  
That's why I'm called, with that yes yes y'all  
At this very moment you feel no stress at all  
No, I'm not testin y'all, this a real lyric  
If you can hear it I'm blessin y'all, with the

*[Chorus]*

*[KRS-One:]*

So we can continue to go down the menu  
I send you my poetry that critiques the evil that men do  
You better attend to, the AC  
When I MC I'm bringin heat lately, now fade me  
No ifs ands buts or maybes  
I'm not crazy, God made me speak with the

*[Chorus]*

*[Outro:]*

That's what I'm talkin about!